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April 28, 1995

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

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MAIL ROOM

Re: **File RM 8626**

To: The Commission

I am opposed to the referenced petition filed by Mr. Frederick O. Maia.

If this petition were to be approved, one effect would be to eliminate code practice and information bulletin transmissions on the HF amateur bands below 30 Mhz. The American Radio Relay League, through its Headquarter station, has provided this service for at least three decades. It continues to be useful and helpful to many licensed amateurs as well as to those seeking to obtain their amateur radio licenses.

In the referenced petition, it is stated that code practice training is available through computer software training and simulation programs. While this is true, it is also true that not everyone has a computer and the capability to use such software. The aspiring license-seeker will very likely have already invested in an HF transceiver or receiver and can, thereby, avail him or herself of the W1AW transmissions.

Unlike most software simulations, the W1AW transmissions provide the "real world" conditions of ionospheric fading and atmospheric and/or man-made noise which are encountered in HF communications.

The referenced petition also states that information bulletins are available from the on-line services such as PRODIGY. Again, not all aspiring licensees have a computer and if they do may not subscribe to on-line services. W1AW provides timely information bulletins on a no-charge basis to all.

The W1AW code practice and information bulletin schedules are printed and widely distributed on a monthly basis by means of the American Radio Relay League QST magazine. So the occupancy of a narrow band (CW) channel for a predictable limited time should come as no surprise. I have been a licensed radio amateur for fifty-four years - continuously active except, of course, for WWII years. I am not aware of any significant interference to or from W1AW transmissions. The great body of radio amateurs, I believe, is wholly cooperative with and supportive of the W1AW code practice and information transmissions and appreciates their benefits.

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For the "anger manifested by deliberate attempts to jam" perceived by Mr. Maia, the solution is not to stop the W1AW transmissions.

Admittedly, there are some relatively new participants in the one-way code practice/bulletin transmissions arena, some of whom, may have questionable agendas. Again, the solution to this problem is not to shut down W1AW code practice/bulletin transmissions.

Over more than five decades, amateur radio has been very important to me - not only in terms of great personal pleasure and friendship with a worldwide fraternal body, but educationally. I served as a radar technician during World War II. As a young man with only a high school education - my amateur radio background was the sole basis of my suitability for Naval radar training. Later, I continued my education - obtained engineering degrees, and worked in the communication fields for four decades. Again, amateur radio augmented formal education in many ways.

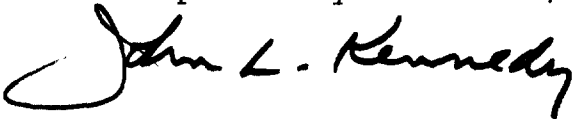
My point is, however, at no time have I had any "commercial interest" in amateur radio. That is, I have never sought to benefit financially from my hobby.

My current license was renewed in July of 1994, then having an expiration date of December 1994. Some time last summer, I received an offer from Mr. Maia to "handle" my renewal process for the sum of five dollars (\$5.00). With this offer letter was a **partial** FCC Form 610 (instructions deleted). At about the same time, I received notification from ARRL of the forthcoming expiration with **complete** Form 610 and return pre-addressed envelope for the FCC. This service is free of charge to all ARRL members.

I am inclined to question the degree of altruism in Mr. Maia's petition in view of its timing. Coincidentally, or otherwise, it came at a time too late to be announced in the current issue of QST magazine, thereby, escaping the scrutiny of a much wider audience.

Finally, from any group of 650,000 individuals (the approximate current number of FCC licenses) there is bound to be a small subgroup of individuals who are intentionally and repeatedly non-compliant with accepted norms of behavior. The answer to this problem is not to close down W1AW transmissions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John L. Kennedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent part.

John L. Kennedy, P.E., W5DJ